

TOP SECRET UMBRA

SC No. 08631-76

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

June 20, 1976

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

LEBANON EVACUATION SITUATION REPORT No. 7
(As of 1400 EDT)

*This is the final situation report of the
CIA Lebanese Evacuation Task Force.*

The Evacuation

Of the reported 279 evacuees aboard the USS Spiegel Grove, 99 are US citizens and 16 are alien dependents. Eighteen US and foreign journalists also are embarked on the Spiegel Grove, which is now underway for Athens. Its present position is south of Cyprus.

The three US task groups are holding their positions off the coast of Lebanon awaiting further orders. The Guadacanal group is holding a position about 90-95 kilometers (50 nm) out, the Little Rock about 140 kilometers (75 nm), and the America is about 230 kilometers (125 nm) off the Lebanese coast.

We have received no official foreign reaction to the evacuation as yet.

Other Developments

The military situation in Lebanon remains basically unchanged since the last situation report. Syrian attacks on Palestinian and leftist positions east and south of Beirut are apparently continuing, but we have received little information on the fighting since mid-morning.

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Press reports from Beirut say there has been sporadic firing in the commercial district and the eastern suburbs. [REDACTED]

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At a press conference in Damascus on Sunday, Arab League secretary general Riad spoke optimistically of having a 1,000-man pan-Arab peace-keeping force in Beirut by the end of this week, to be followed by a second stage deployment of Arab forces elsewhere in Lebanon sometime later.

Soviet Naval Activity

Soviet warships continue to monitor closely the three US naval task groups off the Lebanese coast.

A Soviet amphibious landing ship, accompanied by a destroyer, is on the way to the Mediterranean, having transited the Bosphorus today. Approximately 140 naval infantry troops and supporting combat equipment were observed on the deck of the Alligator-class troop ship.

The two ships probably will join two amphibious troop ships currently located in the Cape Andreas anchorage east of Cyprus. The Soviets normally keep two or three amphibious ships with their Mediterranean naval forces.

Late Item

The Spiegel Grove's estimated time of arrival at Piraeus is 2210 EDT on June 21.